

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for extracting an object from a video image including an object and a background, comprising:

performing an object extraction by generating
5 alpha data in units of one frame using the video image,
the alpha data representing an object region including
the object;

setting manually one of an overwrite enable mode
and an overwrite disable mode to the alpha data, the
10 overwrite enable mode being for permitting overwriting
and the overwrite disable mode for inhibiting
overwriting; and

detecting the overwrite enable mode and the
overwrite disable mode in units of one frame.

2. A method according to claim 1, which includes
15 generating new alpha data for the alpha data set to the
overwrite enable mode, overwriting the new alpha data
on the alpha data set to the overwrite enable mode and
inhibiting overwriting to the alpha data set to the
20 overwrite disable mode.

3. A method according to claim 1, wherein the
setting step includes displaying a video image display
lane which displays a plurality of frames of the video
image, and setting selectively the overwrite enable
25 mode and the overwrite disable mode to the frames.

4. A method according to claim 3, wherein the
setting step includes setting initially the overwrite

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enable mode to all the frames, and then changing selectively the overwrite enable modes on the frames to the overwrite disable mode in accordance with the result of the determining.

5 5. A method according to claim 3, which includes terminating processing for extracting an object when the overwrite disable mode is determined.

10 6. A method according to claim 3, wherein the displaying step displays a plurality of thumb nails obtained by reducing the frames.

7. A method according to claim 6, wherein the displaying step displays a video display window which enlarges and displays a selected one of the thumb nails.

15 8. A method according to claim 7, wherein the displaying step displays the video display window with at least one of the object region and a background region corresponding to the background is painted with a color.

20 9. A method according to claim 3, wherein the displaying step displays the frames by selectively skipping them.

25 10. A method according to claim 3, wherein the displaying step displays a mode setting lane which indicates a frame range of the overwrite enable mode and the overwrite disable mode.

11. A method according to claim 1, wherein the setting step sets to the overwrite disable mode a frame

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in which a motion vector detection error is small, a motion is small, or a difference in pixel values at both ends of an object contour is large.

5 12. A method for extracting an object from a video image including an object and a background, comprising:

performing an object extraction by generating a plurality of alpha data corresponding to a plurality of frames of the video image using a plurality of different parameters representing threshold values for
10 determining the object or the background; and

selecting one of the parameters for each of the frames.

13. A method for extracting an object from a video image including the object and a background,
15 comprising:

inputting a motion parameter indicating a motion of at least one of the object, the background or an entire of the video image; and

performing an object extraction by generating
20 alpha data for each of a plurality of frames of the video image, using the motion parameter.

14. An apparatus which extracts an object from a video image including an object and a background, comprising:

25 an object extraction device configured to perform an object extraction by generating alpha data in units of one frame using the video image, the alpha data

representing an object region including the object;

5 a designation device configured to manually designate one of an overwrite enable mode and an overwrite disable mode to each of a plurality of frames of the video image, the overwrite enable mode being for permitting overwriting and the overwrite disable mode for inhibiting overwriting; and

10 a device configured to perform an overwrite or an overwrite inhibit in accordance with the mode designated by designation device.

15 15. An apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the designation device includes a display unit configured to display a video image display lane which displays a plurality of frames of the video image, and a mode setting unit which selectively sets the overwrite enable mode and the overwrite disable mode to the frames.

20 16. An apparatus according to claim 15, wherein the display unit displays a plurality of thumb nails obtained by reducing the frames.

17. An apparatus according to claim 16, wherein the display unit displays a video display window which enlarges and displays a selected one of the thumb nails.

25 18. An apparatus according to claim 17, wherein the display unit displays the video display window with at least one of the object region and a background region corresponding to the background is painted with

a color.

19. An apparatus according to claim 17, wherein
the display unit displays a mode setting lane which
indicates ranges set to the overwrite enable mode and
5 the overwrite disable mode, respectively.

20. An apparatus which extracts an object from a
video image including an object and a background,
comprising:

means for performing an object extraction by
10 generating alpha data in units of one frame using the
video image, the alpha data representing an object
region including the object;

means for manually designating one of an overwrite
enable mode and an overwrite disable mode to each of a
15 plurality of frames of the video image, the overwrite
enable mode being for permitting overwriting and the
overwrite disable mode for inhibiting overwriting; and

means for performing an overwrite or an overwrite
inhibit in accordance with the mode designated by the
20 designating means.

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